

Go 4 BioDiv

International
Youth Summit 2008



ONE NATURE · ONE WORLD · OUR FUTURE
COP 9 MOP 4 Bonn Germany 2008

International Youth Summit 2008 **Go 4 Biodiv**

parallel to 9th UN Conference on Biological Diversity in Bonn

People from all over the world are united in their concern about the protection of natural habitats. Next to climate change, the dramatic decline in biological diversity is one of the greatest challenges of our lifetime – regardless of where we are located geographically. And it is today's younger generation that will have to bear the future consequences of present-day irresponsible action by the global community.

9th UN Conference on Biological Diversity in Bonn

Special attention will be given to the subject of biological diversity in the year 2008: from 19 through to 30 May 2008, Germany will be hosting the 9th Conference of the Parties (COP9) to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). During this time, and under German chairmanship, the convention's highest political committee which convenes every two years – the Conference of the Parties – will debate measures for the protection of biodiversity. This not only includes the conservation of biological diversity but also its sustainable use and the fair distribution of costs and benefits. Priority subjects include: forest protection, the establishment and funding of protected areas, conservation of plant and animal genetic diversity in agriculture, the development of a body of rules for the equitable distribution of advantages and the objective of substantially reducing the loss of biodiversity worldwide by 2010. Around 5,000 participants from some 190 contracting parties to the convention are expected to be in attendance. Also in May 2008, namely from 12 through to 16, Bonn will be the scene of the 4th Conference on Biosafety pursuant to the Cartagena Protocol (MOP4). The focus here will be on issues of liability relating to the release of genetically-modified organisms.

International Youth Summit – A forum for the concerns of young people

Youth and young adults from all parts of the world have a very keen sense of injustice and are full of energy and enthusiasm when it comes to making the world "a better place". However, they can only formulate and place their messages successfully if they understand basic correlations and have access to forums where they can form an opinion and express their needs. During the 9th UN Conference on Biological Diversity, young adults will be given a joint political platform. To this end, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH, on behalf of the Federal German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), is planning an international summit meeting for young people who are engaged in the field of biodiversity. Cooperation partners are the City of Bonn, the Bavarian Forest National Park as an authority of the Bavarian State Ministry for the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection (STMUVG) and the German Federal Environment Foundation (DBU).





Results and objectives of the summit meeting

The Youth Summit is to promote dialogue with the younger generation about their future and their needs. At the International Wilderness Camp in the Bavarian Forest National Park, young people will take part in workshops where they will develop various formats reflecting the emotional aspect of biodiversity and the diverse cultural backgrounds of the participants. They will look at what dependency on biological diversity means for them personally and how in concrete terms the loss of biodiversity is impacting their region and individual countries. They will present their perspectives on this subject and possible approaches for resolving the problem during the UN conference in Bonn. In this way, they will be given the opportunity to clearly express their concerns. Presentations are planned, inter alia, in the high-level segment of the UN conference, on stage in the exposition area and at the International Conference of Mayors. The young people will be able to hold discussions with representatives of national delegations and other political decision-makers. This will enable these young adults from industrialised and developing nations to hone their intercultural understanding and to strengthen their partnership-based cooperation. Their involvement is intended to help clarify mutual responsibilities and to draw up a joint road map for the future – all of which goes hand in hand with personal responsibility. In the long term, the summit will thus promote the sustainable networking of young agents for biodiversity.

Participants

The event organisers are to select up to 50 young participants from the 18-to-25 age group, who are already involved in the field of biodiversity, be it through their work or through their social engagement. Two young people respectively from Benin, Brazil, Chile, Mongolia, Russia, Venezuela and Vietnam (all from partner protected areas of the International Wilderness Camp in the Bavarian Forest National Park) will be able to take part. Furthermore, places are also available for two participants each from the countries of Bolivia, China, Madagascar, Mauritania, Namibia, USA and Uzbekistan. Young people from Germany and the Czech Republic (Bavarian Forest National Park region / Sumava) will also be taking part. Good English-language skills are essential.

Programme

In the run-up to the Youth Summit, the selected participants will already have to make preparations and agree on subjects and contributions. Before and during the UN conference, the young people will gather for ten days, from 16 to 25 May, at the International Wilderness Camp in Falkenstein in the Bavarian Forest National Park, where the focus will be on getting to know each other and on doing creative work. Biodiversity is experienced first hand at the wilderness camp. Biodiversity is experienced first hand at the wilderness camp. Here the young people will work on the subject biodiversity and develop a format that reflects its emotional aspect as well as the internationality and cultural diversity of the participants. They will present their contributions and perspectives on biodiversity in Bonn.

The programme will then be continued for five days in Bonn from 26 to 30 May 2008. The focus here is on the young agents' permanent presence at the conference location, where

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they will be able to communicate their message to the delegates and the public at large via exhibitions, activities, theatre and film etc. The participants are scheduled to return home on 31 May 2008.

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